Allegation against the director of IIM, Lucknow

1821. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director of the Indian Institute of Management at Lucknow follows no service or promotion rules and appoints and promotes whomsoever he wishes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are allegations of irregularities against the Director regarding the construction of Rs. 35 crore Complex for the Institute coming up at the Sitapur Road; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to see that Institute set up by Government in 1984 functions on sound and healthy lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) According to the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow the rules for appointment and promotion as laid down by the Institute are being following by the Director.

(b) No such allegation has been received by the Department.

(c) Does not arise.

Bad effect of chemically and artificially Softened pipe water heart patients

1822. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a study has revealed that the use of chemically and artificially softened pipe water is not good for health particularly for those having high blood cholesterol; and

(b) if so, what steps are Government taking and educate the people especially those with high blood cholesterol levels regarding the ill-effects of chemically and artificially softened pipe water and provide their substitutes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Government is not aware of any study that has revealed that the use of chemically and artificially softened pipe water is not good for health particularly for those having high blood cholesterol. However, there is an inverse relationship between hardness of water and Cardio Vascular Disease.

Reservation of Railway tickets by touts

1823. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after installation of computers at railway reservation offices in Delhi, touts are still having a hold in obtaining reservations at a premium; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to eliminate these unscrupulous agents and make railway reservations available to the general public without any difficulty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Computerised passenger reservation system in Delhi area in addition to improving the quality of service has helped in eliminating cornering of reserved accommodation by unsocial elements with the connivance of railway reservation staff.

(b) The following steps are taken:—

i. A close surveillance on reservation offices is maintained to detect and apprehend touts. During the period 1.1.87 to 31.10.87, 100 touts/unauthorised agents were apprehended in Delhi area under the Indian Railways Act.

ii. Checks are conducted in running trains to detect cases of transferred reservations.

iii. In some cases, where telephone numbers are mentioned in the requisition slip, phone calls are made to check whether the reservation is genuine. In cases of doubt, the reservation is cancelled.